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## **A Statement by the Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association Against Senate Bill 1145, a Commercial Fishing Amendment**

by Frank Krist

To the House Tourism and Outdoor Recreation

December 19, 2018

I am Frank Krist, the Vice President of the Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association. I would like to thank Chair Hughes and the other Committee Members for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 1145. The Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association is centered in Northeastern Michigan, but it has been very active statewide in Great Lakes and inland fishery issues. The mission of the Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association is to advise and work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, other agencies and the public to improve and promote the Great Lakes and inland fisheries throughout Michigan.

For over 30 years, members of the Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association have worked closely with commercial fishers in northern Lake Huron to share the whitefish fishery. However, Senate Bill 1145 would allow State commercial fishing for lake trout in the waters of Lakes Michigan and Superior and the Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association is strongly against this change. Lake trout have been protected from commercial fishing for nearly five decades in these and the other Great Lake waters because it is a reliable recreational species that consistently supplies fishing opportunities throughout the season. The lake trout is the most dependable of all trout and salmon species and are usually found close to ports the entire season. Lake trout complement the highly migratory salmon fishery that is often only available in areas for short periods each season as the salmon move throughout the lakes. The stability of the important lake trout fishery supports and is critical to the success of the very valuable and economically important Great Lakes sports fishery. We strongly urge the Tourism and Recreation House Committee not to move this detrimental bill forward.

Thank you very much for considering the concerns of the Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frank Krist", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Frank Krist, Vice President  
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